





**ana Department  
of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



1400 So. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715

September 22, 1993

**TO:** Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704  
Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office, Cogswell Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
    Director's Office  
    Parks Division  
    Fisheries Division-Bruce Rehwinkel  
    Wildlife Division  
    Lands Section  
    Design and Construction  
    Legal Unit  
    Mary Ellen McDonald  
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
**Montana State Library**, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 Pacific, Dillon, MT 59725  
Jerry DiMarco, 2708 W. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Innes Mining Claims donation to Bannack State Park, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., October 29, 1993. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 994-4042. All comments should be sent to the undersigned at 1400 S. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

*Gerald Walser for R.V.*

Richard Vincent  
Acting Regional Supervisor

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# DRAFT

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Acceptance of land donation in vicinity of Bannack State Park.
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3. Name of Project Gilbert Innes Property Donation
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)  
Agency
5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Unknown  
Estimated Completion Date \_\_  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) \_\_
6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)  
Beaverhead County, in Section 5, Range 11 West, Township 8 South, P.M.M.  
2 patented mining claims - Anniversary Lode, Survey No. 10275, 19.686 acres and  
Beaverhead Lode, Survey No. 10275, 15.288 acres.
7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:	(d) Floodplain . . . . .	acres
residential . . . . .	acres	
industrial . . . . .	acres	
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation . . . . .	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland . . . . .	acres
	dry cropland . . . . .	acres
	forestry . . . . .	acres
	rangeland . . . . .	acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas . . . . .	other . . . . .	35 acres
		Mining Claims

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

Topographic map attached

National Historic Landmark District map attached

Mining claims map attached

Recreation and Public Purposes (RP&P) application to Bureau of Land Management map attached.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

Mr. Gilbert Innes has offered to donate, at no charge, two patented mining claims, totalling approximately 35 acres, to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to be added to Bannack State Park. The purpose of the proposed action is to consider adding private property within the National Historic Landmark boundary to the state park. This action will benefit the park by eliminating possible incompatible developments or mining activities which would impact the physical and visual setting surrounding Bannack. In addition, important historical and cultural features (i.e., cemetery, structures related to mining, prospecting evidence, etc.) would be incorporated into the park boundary. Both benefits listed are endorsed objectives in the Bannack Management plan.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name      Permit      Date Filed/#

N/A

(b) Funding:

Agency Name      Funding Amount

N/A

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name      Type of Responsibility

N/A

11. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

None

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?	X					
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?	X					
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	X					
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?	X					
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?	X					
f. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))	X					
b. Creation of objectionable odors?	X					
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	X					
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?	X					
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a) N/A						
f. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ◊ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c) N/A						
m. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3e) N/A						
n. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	X					
b. Alteration of a plant community?	X					
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?	X					
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?	X					
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?	X					
f. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland? N/A						
g. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ◊ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

► 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f) N/A						
i. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d) N/A						
j. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: Electrical Transmission Lines				X		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6e. Electrical transmission lines cross the subject property in a north easterly to southwesterly direction. The 69 KV line delivers power from the Dillon/Salmon Sub Station at Rattlesnake Flats to the North Vigilante REA and Idaho Power. From an aesthetic stand point, the transmission lines detract from the visual qualities and the historic atmosphere.

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:			X			
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X			
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. The subject property, if incorporated into Bannack State Park, would cease to be available for mining or other commercial activities. According to G. Innes (conversation on 9/17/93) large scale mining activity on the subject claims ended in the late 1920's. The last minor prospecting occurred in the late 1980's.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:			X			
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X			
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a) N/A						
e. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8c. Hardrock mining, by it's very nature, is a hazardous activity. Potential hazards may be created in areas where this activity has taken place. Examination of the subject property revealed that mine portals have been closed by methods that prevent entry. There are no known shafts or adits that are accessible to the public. Examination also revealed no residues of mining that might create a human health hazard.

- ◊ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X			
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?				X		
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9c. Removal of the two mining claims from private ownership may have minor impacts to the distribution of employment or community or personal income. As mentioned under 7a., activities which would provide employment or income on the subject property have been insignificant for at least 50 years.

9d. Incorporation of the property into Benneck State Park would preclude future industrial or commercial activity.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X			
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources N/A						
► f. Define projected maintenance costs. See Below			X			
g. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10b. The Beaverhead County Assessor's Office reported that the Anniversary Lode has an assessed value of \$1,771 and the Beaverhead Lode of \$1,376 for a combined value of \$3,147. The two lodes were assessed property taxes of \$38.74 in 1992. The proposed action would result in the annual loss of this revenue to Beaverhead County.

10f. Projected maintenance costs, with the acquisition of the Innes property, are expected to be minor. The presence of low density noxious weeds (knapweed) would necessitate weed control efforts that would cost between \$50-\$100 annually. Money for these efforts would come from existing Bannack State Park budget. Funding sources for this maintenance expense could be earned revenue, coal tax trust or general fund dollars.

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

► 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
► c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c) N/A						
e. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a) N/A						
e. Other: N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT <sup>◊</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>◊</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>◊</sup>	None	Minor <sup>◊</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)	X					
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?	X					
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?	X					
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?	X					
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?	X					
f. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e) N/A						
g. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required. N/A						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ◊ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Two alternatives have been considered for this proposal:

1. Refuse the offer of donation of 35 acres of patented mining claims to Bannack State park (no action alternative).
2. Accept the donation of 35 acres of patented mining claims to Bannack State Park.

#### Analysis and Implementation Discussion of Alternatives

##### Alternative 1 - No Action/Refuse Donation of Property

This alternative would preserve the status quo. The property ownership would remain with Gilbert Innes. A no cost opportunity to buffer Bannack State Park from incompatible development or disruptive activities and preserve historical elements of the Bannack mining district would be delayed or possibly lost. The property would remain on county tax rolls and would continue to provide property tax income to Beaverhead County.

##### Alternative 2 - Accept Donation of Property

Under this alternative the property would become a part of Bannack State Park and subsequently managed as a historical/natural element of the Montana State Park system. The incorporation of this property into Bannack State Park would further current management plan direction to, "(1) acquire all available significant historic properties that were a part of the Bannack mining district, (2) acquire or control all property required to provide a buffer zone and view shed necessary to protect the cultural and scenic values of the district...".

Acquisition of this property would remove 35 acres from the Beaverhead County tax roles and result in loss of tax revenue derived from these claims. This alternative would preclude commercial development of the property.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action because there are no impacts to the physical environment and only minor impacts to the human environment.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The appropriate level of public involvement is the publication of legal notice in the Helena Independent Record, the Butte Montana Standard and the Dillon Tribune advertising the availability of copies of the E.A. and the dates of the 30 day comment period.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

October 1st through 5 p.m., October 29, 1993

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Jerry Walker  
Regional State Park Manager  
1400 S. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 994-3552

### PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Historical Perspective and Significance of the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes and Surrounding Properties:

The following narrative was prepared by Dr. Dale Tash, former Acting President of Western Montana College (retired) and former manager of Bannack State Park (retired).

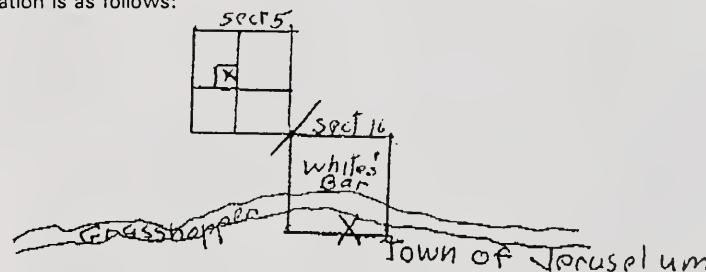
#### ANNIVERSARY AND BEAVERHEAD LODES

In evaluating the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes from a historical perspective one has to take into account who and of what historical importance were the owners. For example, a property would certainly have more historical significance if Governor Edgerton rather than some unknown miner owned it.

The Innes family, owners of the Beaverhead and Anniversary Lodes, were important and well known Bannack pioneers. The Innes Ditch running just above the Visitor Center parking lot, was one of the first Bannack ditches, carrying some 2,000 inches of water to the placers below Bannack. The members of the Innes family were among the most active of Beaverhead County pioneers. The elementary school in Dillon is named after Mary Innes, owner of the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes from 1941 to 1957.

The Anniversary Lode, located in the SE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 5, Township 8 South, Range 11 West, was patented May 24, 1921, and consists of 15.288 acres. The Beaverhead Lode, also patented on May 24, 1921, is contiguous to the Anniversary and consists of 19.686 acres. The original patents were granted to the entire Innes family. The family turned these patents over to Mary Innes in 1947, and when she died in 1957, her will deeded the lodes back to John Innes.

Both lodes are located in the White's Bar Mining District and near the original White's Bar, site of first discovery on Grasshopper Creek. Location is as follows:



Directly to the southeast of the two lodes is the famous Gold Bug (Dakota), the first producing lode mine in what is now Montana. Two Bannack blacksmiths, Allen and Arnold, coiled and welded wagon tires into the first stamp mill to process ore in Montana. Utilizing a water wheel with a small stream of water worth one dollar an inch per day, they were producing gold from the Dakota and surrounding lodes early in 1863. Called the Bannack City Gravity Mill, it was reported that the mill crushed fifteen hundred dollars worth of gold ore in one week. The ore was taken from the vicinity of the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes, most of it from the Dakota mine.

The initial point from which the first survey of the Bannack Mining District was developed, is either on, or very close to the Anniversary Lode. The first surveyor carved into a granite out-cropping on a high ridge, the date and exact location of this first survey of the first important gold mining district in Montana.

Marysville was an "auxiliary" town to Bannack that sprang up around the Golden Leaf Placers. The Marysville burying ground is located close enough and in such a position relative to the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes that it would be difficult to develop them without disturbing the cemetery. Some graves have been located by Rob Towner and Company that are some distance from the cemetery.

During 1887, the Golden Leaf Mining Company was organized. The Golden Leaf group was situated about one mile below the old town of Bannack, which was much more evident to the east than today. The company mined on both banks of Grasshopper Creek and at the little known town of Cavendish. The company owned several hundred acres of placer claims

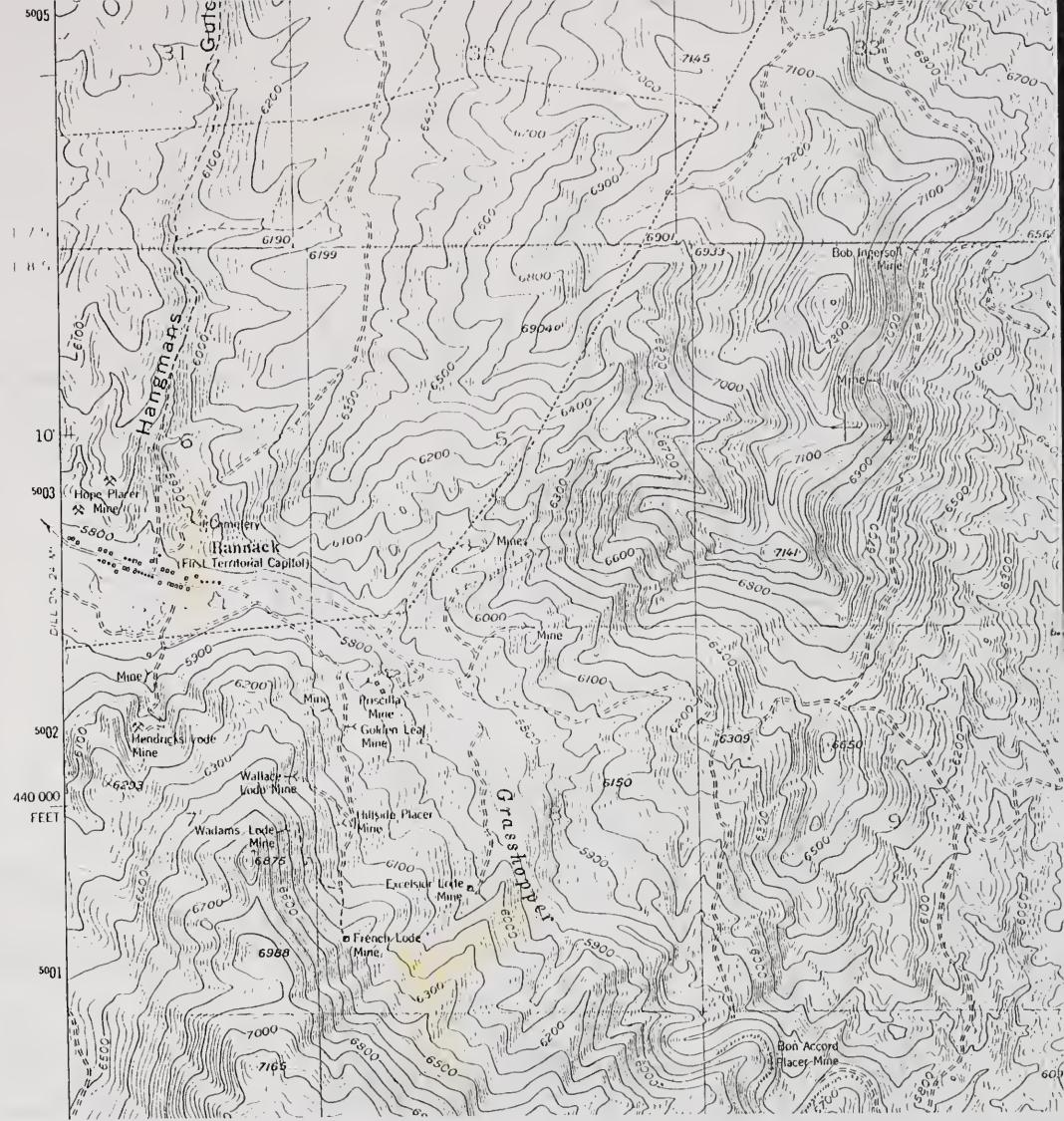
which were opened up by a long flume. Tunnels were built and a 10 stamp wet crushing silver mill was constructed. Some of the ground worked was on what is now the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes. Several other early mills worked the ore in the vicinity of these lodes.

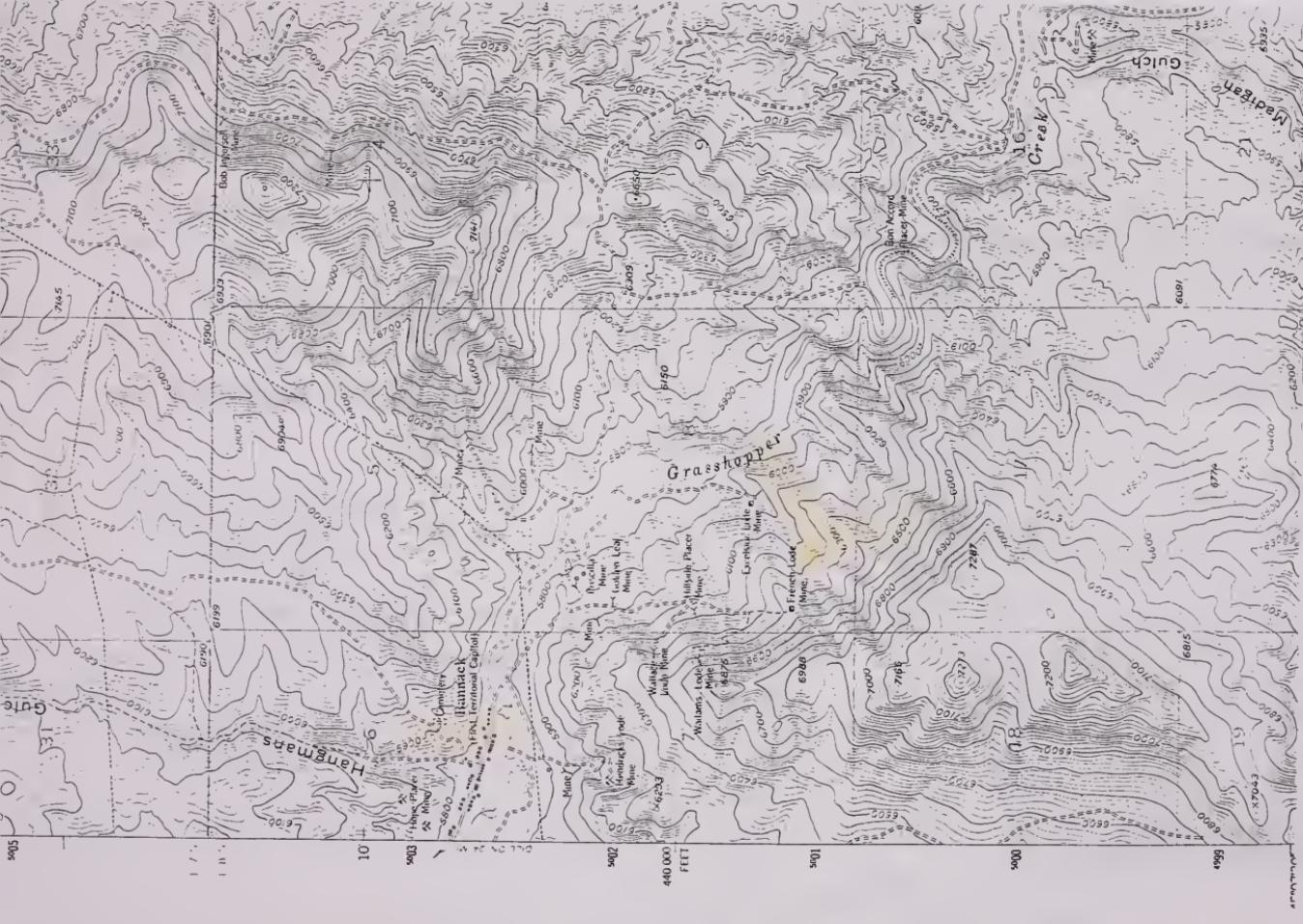
Two dredges dug up the stream directly below the Anniversary and the Beaverhead Lodes. The Maggie Gibson (Gilman and Smith) started work on July 27, 1896, after being christened at Marysville. The A. F. Graeter, launched at Marysville, commenced operations on June 12, 1897.

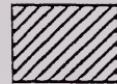
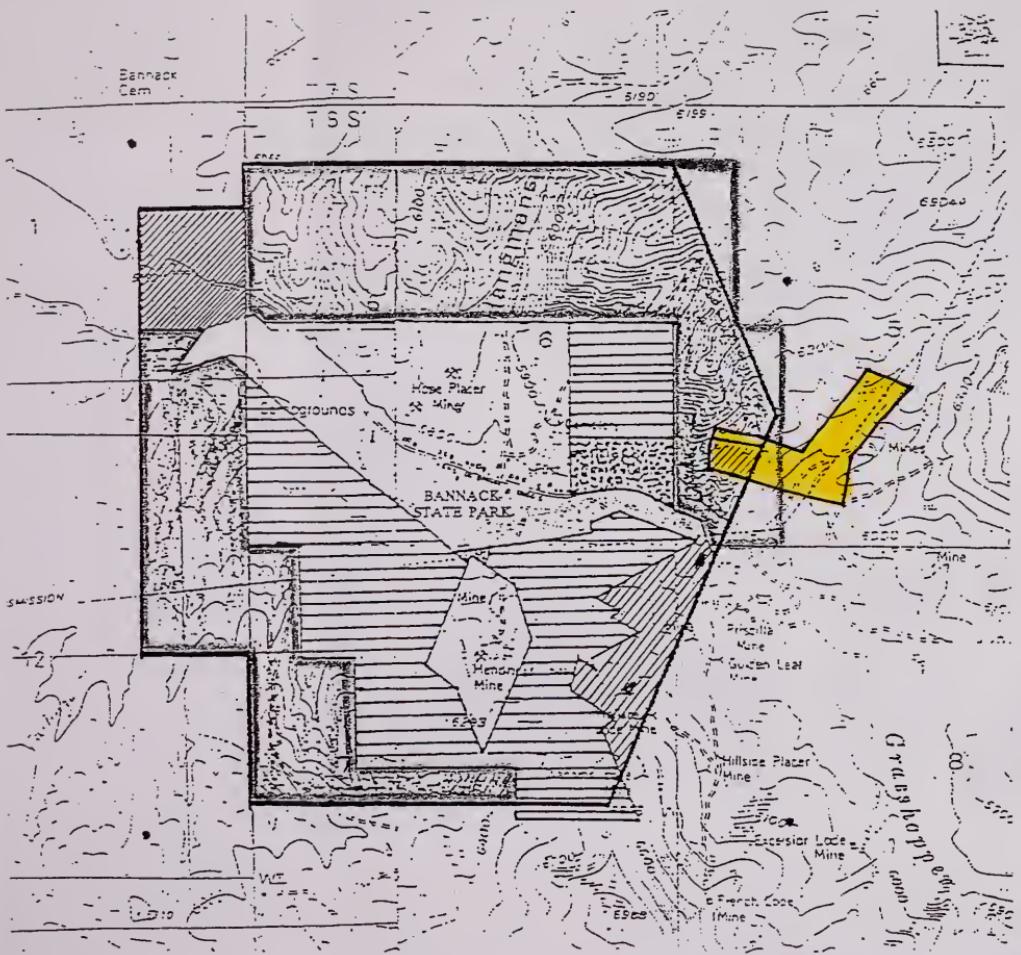
During the period from 1900 to 1950, several mills with varying methods of processing ore operated with ore taken from the east side of Grasshopper Creek below Bannack. From 1950 to the present the area has been placer mined with dragline, caterpillar and "washing machines."

Several crystal mines have been worked in the area, including one on the Beaverhead Lode.

What one must realize is that very little mining, with the exception of the dredges, took place in the immediate vicinity of the town of Bannack. An overwhelming majority of the gold, both from placer and lode mining was garnered from area below Bannack, specifically "between the two canyons", the area where the Anniversary and Beaverhead Lodes are located. Indeed, one can see here evidence of the history of every kind of mining and milling for gold and silver, several towns, cemeteries and Chinese diggings.



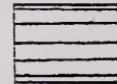




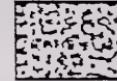
Private property



Federal Lands within NHL boundary,  
not withdrawn



Scenic Withdrawal, 1980



R&PP passes to DFWP, 1979 & 1984

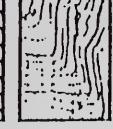
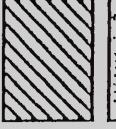
**BANNACK SP  
200 AC.**



**PROPOSED R+PP  
PATENT**



Gilbert Innes Donation

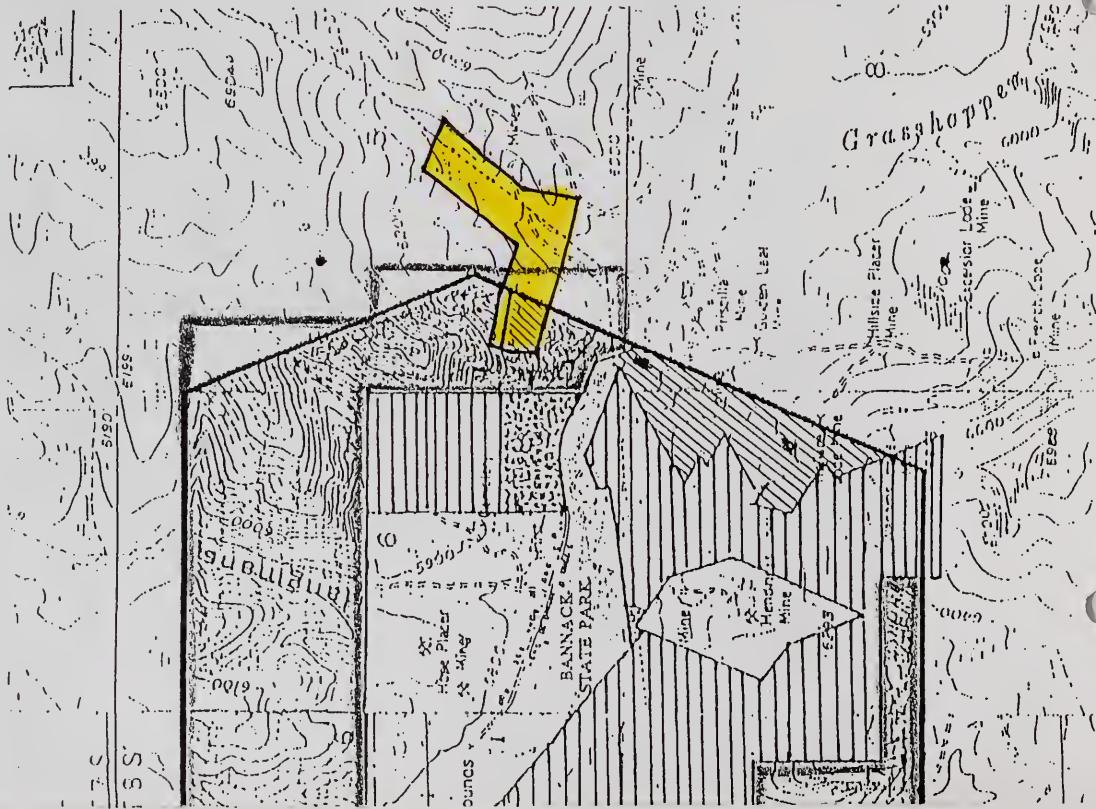


BANNACK SP  
200 AC.

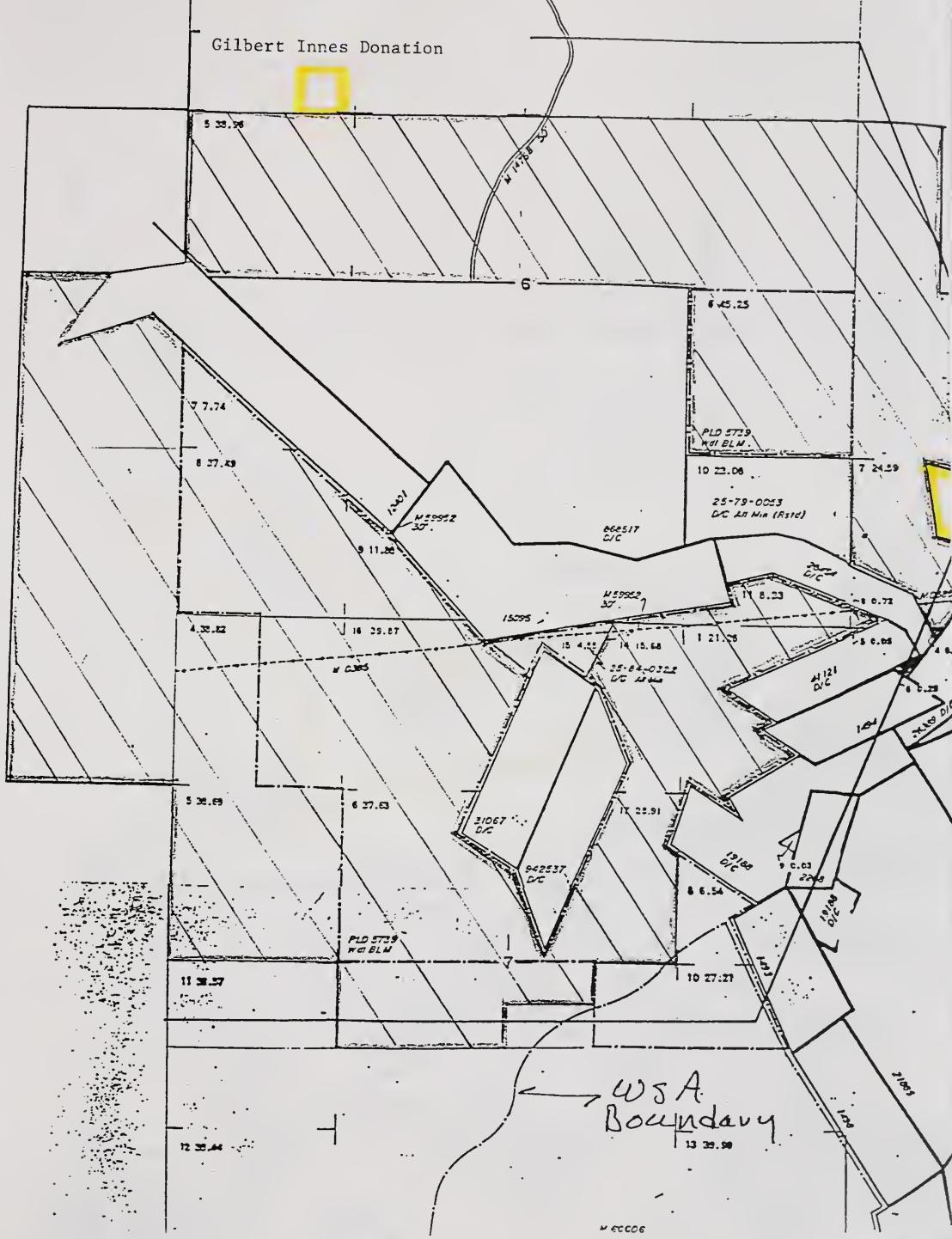
PROPOSED R+PP  
PATENT



Gilbert Innes Donation



### Gilbert Innes Donation



B/24

| KIIW



FOR ORDERS EFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF  
UNIDENTIFIED LANDS WITHDRAWN FOR CLASSIFICATION,  
MINERALS, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES  
REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

M-13213 EO 5327 Wd Known Oil Shale Land  
Sec 6: All except Lots 10, 11, and those parts of  
Pats 15095, 28454, and MS 6795  
within SE<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>SE<sub>4</sub>

M 14768 44 LD 513 50

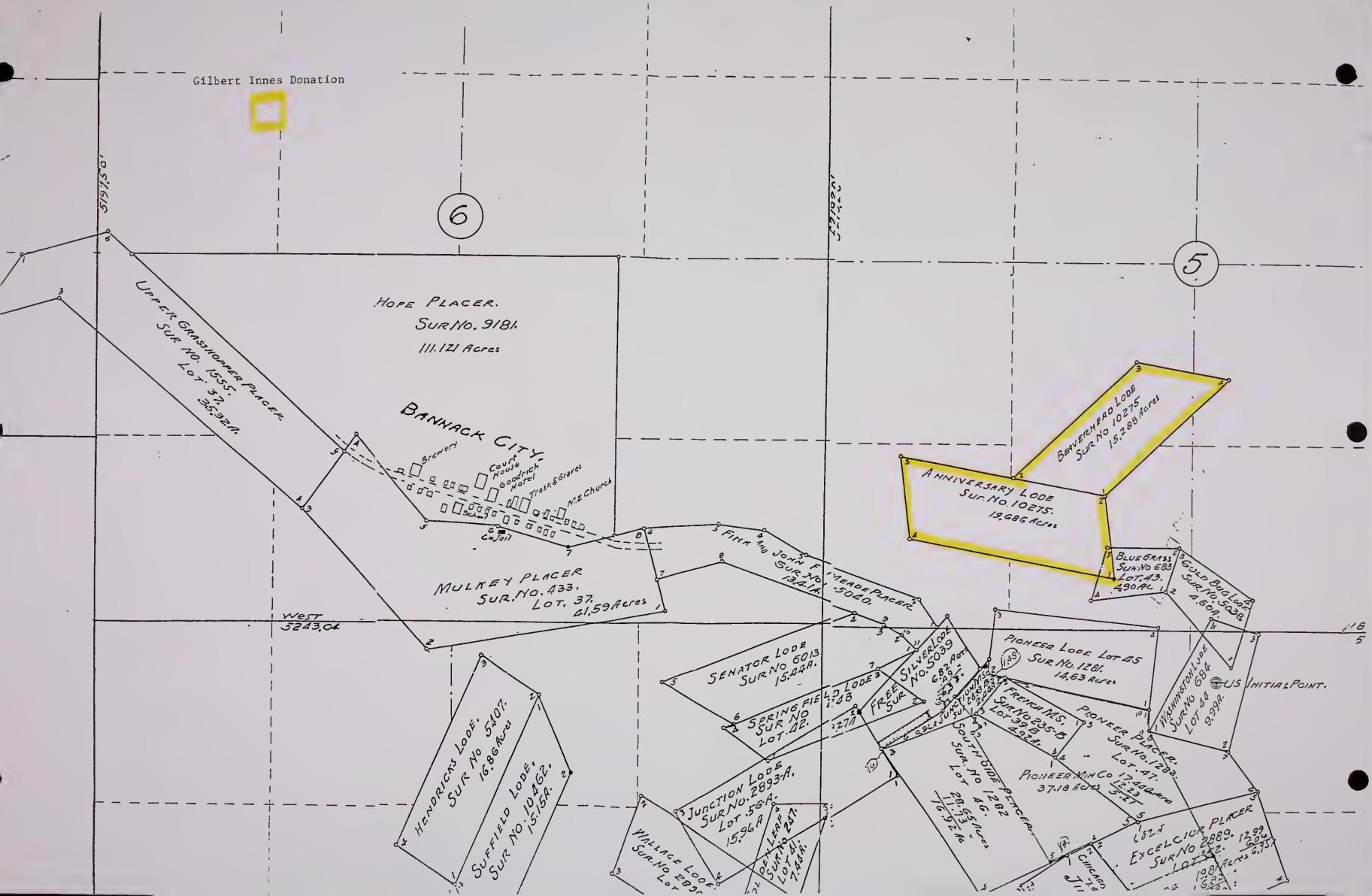
M 30372 BLM O Cl suitable for Rec and PP Lse or  
Sale 5/13/1975 ✓  
See G- Lot 10

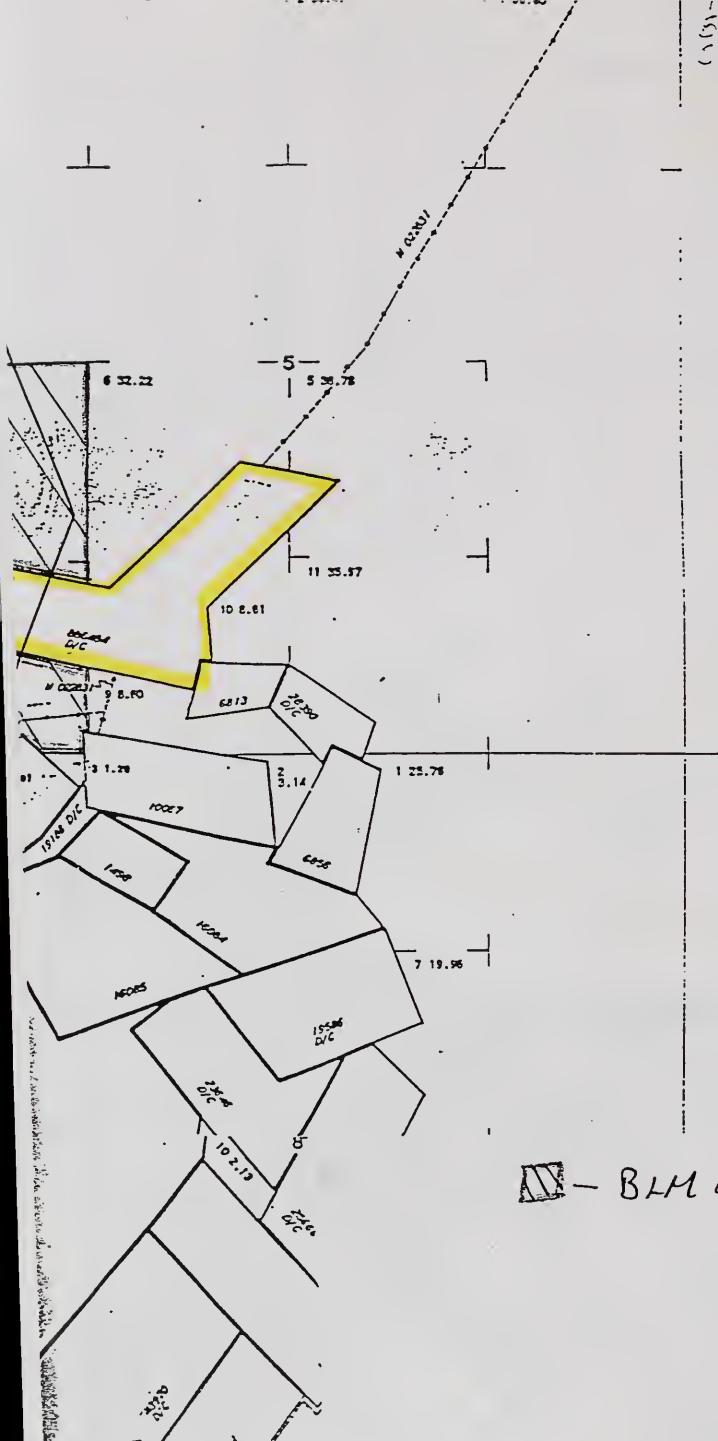
M 062542 (P9.0) CI switchable for R/S  
Sec 6: Lot 10  
Sec 7: M&B

H 66606 (99.0) BLM WILDERNESS  
STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

Pats 25-79-0053 25-84-0322  
Not open to mineral location/leasing  
pending issuance of regulations open  
to OG & Geothermal leasing 5/16/1985

~~W~~ - BLM in R & PP Apln





FOR ORDERS EFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF  
UNIDENTIFIED LANDS WITHDRAWN FOR CLASSIFICATION,  
MINERALS, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.  
REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

1

M 13213 EO 5327 Wd Known Oil Shale Lands  
Sec 6r All except Lots 10, 11, and those parts of  
Lots 15095, 28454, and MS 6795  
within SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$

M 1476B 44 LD 513 50'

M 30372 BLM O Cl suitable for Rec and PP Lse cr  
Sale 5/13/1975 \  
Sec 6: Lot 10

M 062542 (99.0) CI suitable for R B PP  
Sec 6' Lot 10  
Sec 7. MBB . .

M 66606 (99.0) BLM WILDERNESS  
STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

Pete 25-79-0053, 25-84-0322  
Not open to financial location/leasing  
pending issuance of regulations open  
to OG & Geothermal leasing 5/16/1983

**Montana Department  
of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



1400 So. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715

November 1, 1993

**TO:** Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office, Cogswell Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

    Director's Office

    Parks Division

    Fisheries Division-Bruce Rehwinkel

    Wildlife Division

    Lands Section

    Design and Construction

    Legal Unit

    Mary Ellen McDonald

    Karen Hillstrom

    Cindy Staszak

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

**Montana State Library**, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 Pacific, Dillon, MT 59725

Jerry DiMarco, 2708 W. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715

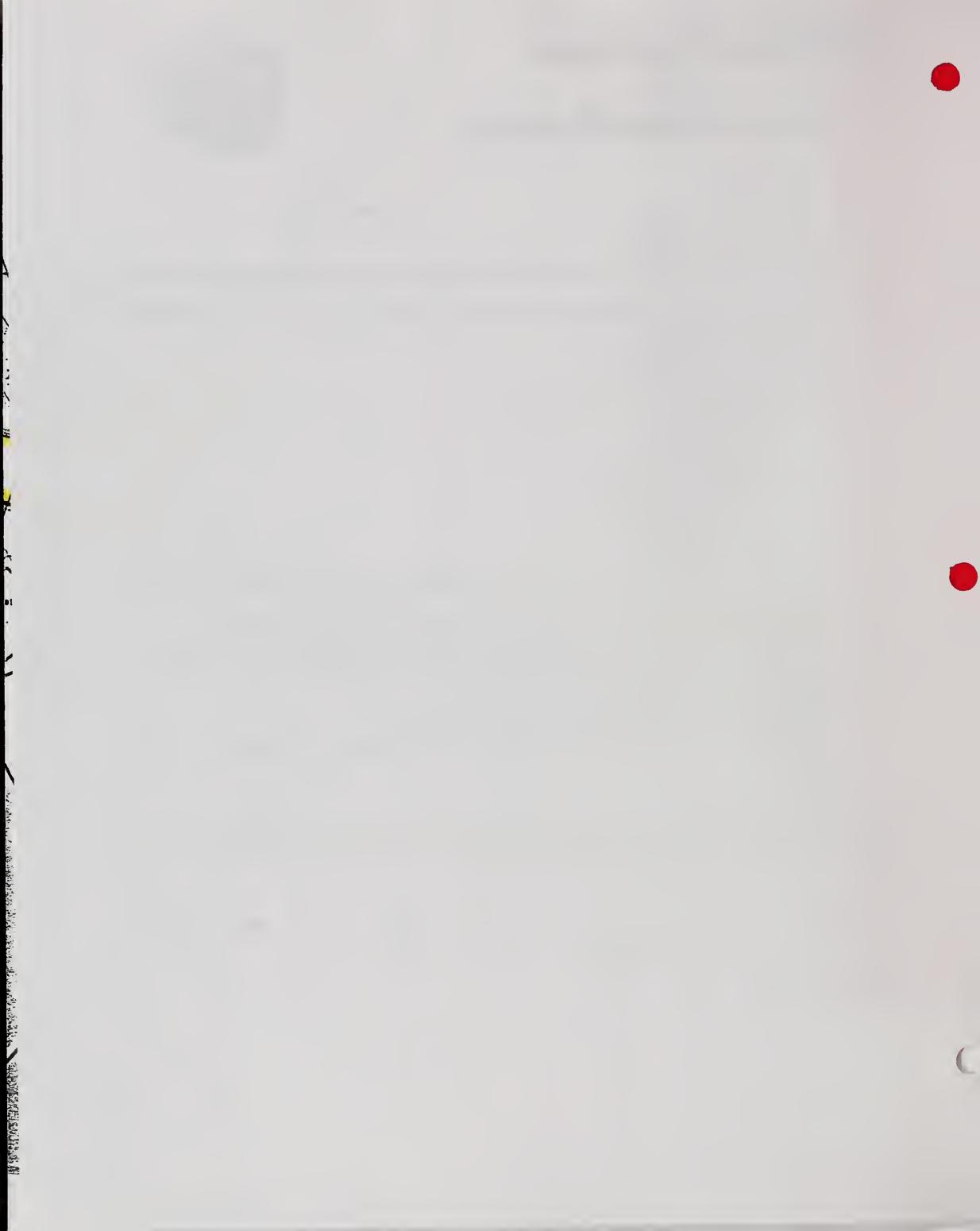
Jack Hunt, Bannack Association, 11950 Highway 10 East, Missoula, MT 59802

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please find attached the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for acceptance of donation of the Innes Property for addition to Bannack State Park.

Sincerely,

Richard Vincent  
Acting Regional Supervisor



**Montana Department  
of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



**Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact  
For Acceptance of Donation of the Innes Property  
for Addition to Bannack State Park**

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Region 3  
1400 S. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715

November, 1993

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposes to accept the donation of two patented mining claims (Anniversary Lode-19.69 acres, and Beaverhead Lode-15.29 acres), offered by Gilbert Innes, to be added to Bannack State Park. The 35 acres lie to the northeast of the park within the National Historic Landmark District.

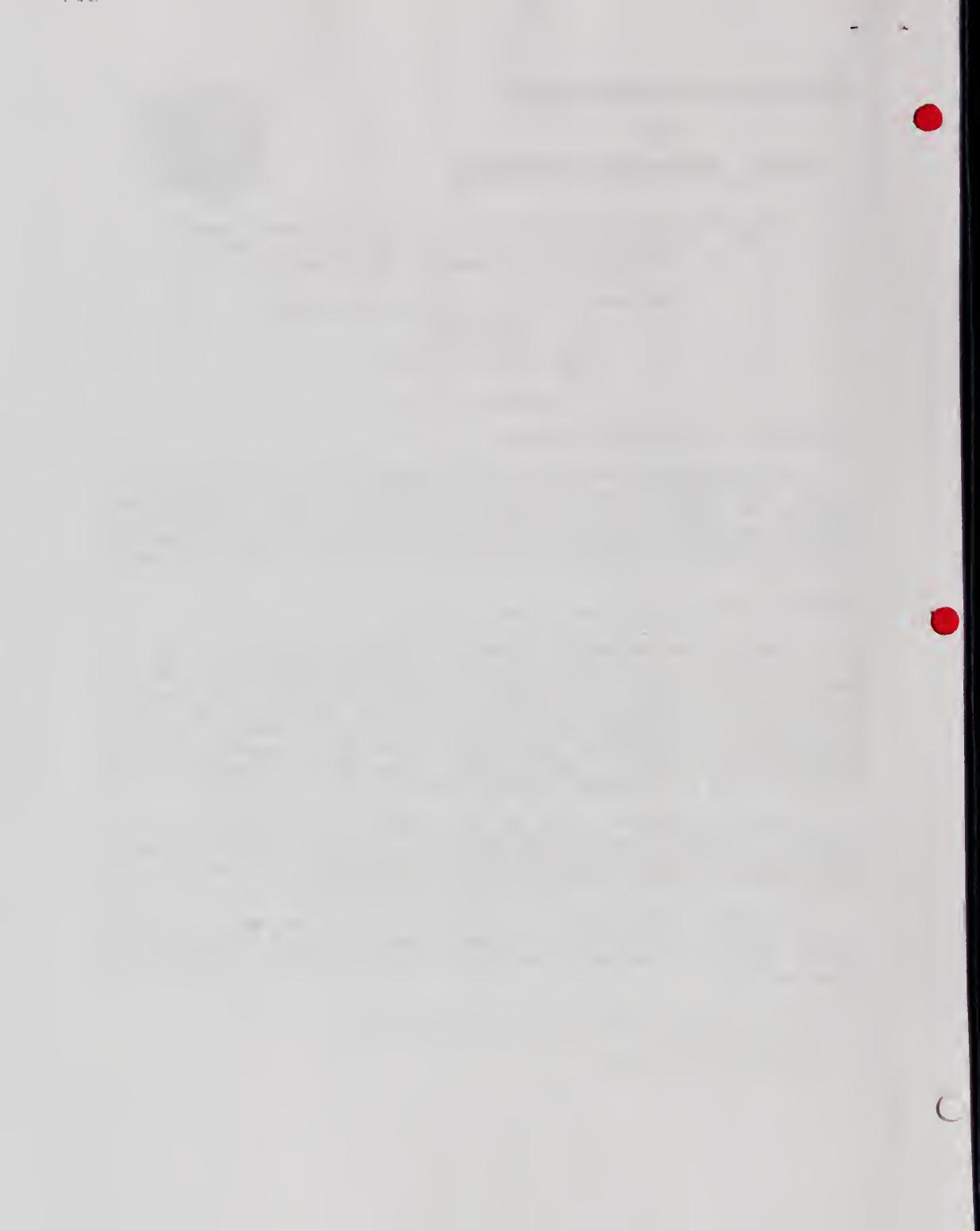
**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):**

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I find Alternative 2, Accept Donation of Innes Property, to be the preferred alternative to provide a buffer zone and view shed to protect the cultural and scenic values of the district and to incorporate significant historical and cultural features into the protective status of the state park. The two comments received supported acceptance of the donation of the subject property. The draft EA will be accepted as the final EA with no changes.

I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment, and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region 3, Bozeman, Montana. Please direct requests and questions to:

Dick Vincent, Acting Regional Supervisor  
1400 S. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 994-4042



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